

As the Philadelphia Inquirer editorialized last week, "For decades, Ruth Wright Hayre's name has been synonymous with quality education. Her retirement next month for health reasons from the School Board of Philadelphia should inspire her colleagues to live up to the exciting standard she set."

In light of her many accomplishments in education, civil rights and the arts, and the void she leaves in lives of all Philadelphians, I am proud to honor Ruth Hayre.

TRIBUTE TO THE CRANBURY
LIONS CLUB 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Cranbury Township Lions Club which is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. Coincidentally, the Lions 65th anniversary coincides with Cranbury's tercentennial.

Having served as a Lion myself since 1982, I am well aware of the important role and contribution that the Lions Club makes in so many communities around our country.

We have heard before, right here in this Chamber, that the era of big government is over. But it is not good enough to just say it, we must act and reach out to our neighbors and those in need. The Lions have been doing just that for many years all over the country and the world.

We in this Nation have a choice. A choice to volunteer and help each other or let government assume that role. If big government is truly over, then we as individuals need to assume some of the responsibilities of government. We the people, need to help our fellow citizens who are in need.

The Lions Clubs around our Nation have consistently been involved in efforts to help those in need to see better through the collection and refurbishment of used eyeglasses, diabetes education, and a host of other activities. America's Lions are doing their share.

The Cranbury Lion's Club has for the past 8 years supported Project Quest, a campaign for drug prevention focused on Kindergarten through eighth grade students. Project Quest provides funding for teacher training and materials in the fight against illegal drugs and drug abuse among the community's youth.

It is these kinds of efforts, people in one community selflessly helping to solve its own problems, that will guide America into the next century. Since its founding in 1932, by Dr. Gerald Miller, the Cranbury Lions has quietly served as an example to us all.

I would like to congratulate some of the club's longest serving members, Judson Hagerty, Jay Schuyler, Arthur Danser, and George Conley. Each of these men have served the club and their community for over 40 years and together they represent close to 200 years of service.

Each year, the Cranbury Lions are responsible for hosting the township's Memorial Day parade. I want to pay early congratulations to Frank Brennan who is this year's parade committee chairman.

As this Congress continues to emphasize the need for service organizations and volunteers to assume a greater role, it will be orga-

nizations like the Cranbury Lions that year after year continue to bring about positive change.

Tomorrow night, the Cranbury Lions will hold their 65th anniversary dinner and I would like to extend my best wishes.

As America looks toward the 21st century, Lion's Clubs around the Nation stand ready and committed, full of energy, creativity, and solutions to help us become a better society and solve the problems that face our Nation. Among those groups is the Cranbury Lions.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND
LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN ELEC-
TRICITY DEREGULATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would create a national fund to provide matching grants to State and local programs promoting energy conservation, renewable energy resources like wind and solar power, and universal electricity service for low income, rural and other consumers for whom basic electricity service may be compromised by deregulation.

Nationwide, it is estimated that regulated utilities spend between \$6 and \$7.5 billion annually on energy conservation, renewable energy, and low income energy assistance programs. In the brave, new world of deregulated electricity markets, many of these public purposes could fall through the cracks. My bill provides a stable funding source to not only help maintain existing energy conservation, renewable energy and low income energy assistance programs, but to expand them around the Nation.

This is not a new Federal bureaucracy. It is a simple mechanism that will funnel money directly to programs crafted at the State and local level. Its cost to the Federal Treasury will be near zero.

The national program would be funded by a competitively neutral, non-bypassable transmission access charge paid by all electricity suppliers. The charge would be set to a level sufficient to fund qualifying State programs each year, but would be limited to no more than 2 tenths-of-a-cent per kilowatt-hour. The fund would be administered by a joint Federal-State board with oversight from the Department of Energy.

If fully utilized, the national electric systems benefits fund would provide between \$5 and \$6 billion each year in matching grants for locally designed energy efficiency, renewable and low income energy assistance programs. Electric utility industry deregulation without this important incentive-based program would be a disaster for the environment and for low income families.

TAXPAYER BROWSING
PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 1997

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1226, the Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act.

The American public should know that the problem of IRS agents browsing through taxpayer files is not exclusive to Washington, DC. Just last week in Buffalo, NY, it was revealed that at least 18 Buffalo-area IRS agents had used their access as Government officials to snoop through the tax files of thousands of upstate New Yorkers. And of these 18, only 2 were fired for their actions.

Quite simply, if the Government is going to compel personal information from its citizens, then there is a corresponding obligation to preserve the privacy of that information. Tax snooping is a clear case of abuse of Government authority, at the expense of others privacy and freedom.

The repugnance of Government agents rifling through our possessions without cause is precisely what sparked our constitutional prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure.

That is why I support H.R. 1226, the Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MICHAEL A. MARTONE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Honorable Michael A. Martone, an Oakland County District Court judge from Troy, MI who will receive the Italian-American of the Year Award. This award, presented to Judge Martone by the Italian-American Study Group of Troy, is in recognition of his outstanding and continued commitment to the youth of our community.

Judge Martone has developed and implemented a unique alcohol and drug intervention program which actually brings the courtroom to middle and high schools. His program, dubbed "Court in the Schools: Critical Life Choices," illustrates to young adults the life-long consequences of failing to think critically and breaking the law. On September 9, 1996, Judge Martone gained national recognition for his efforts to establish the program around the nation when he was profiled on NBC's "Today Show." More than 12,500 students have participated in the program, not only in Michigan but in New York, Missouri, Florida, and Arkansas.

In addition to continuing his expansion of "Court in the Schools," Judge Martone remains active in the community as a volunteer with the Troy Community Coalition, Oakland County's HAVEN Courage House, and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Martone's accomplishments and outstanding contributions to the

youth of our Nation. On this special occasion, I send my very best wishes to him and his wife, Martha Rose and their two sons, Jonathan and James.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY'S BOY SCOUT TROOP 2

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that on Saturday, April 19, 1997, Santa Clarita Valley's Boy Scout Troop 2, will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Sponsored by the Kiwanans Club of Valencia, Troop 2 remains the largest troop in the valley, with over 130 boys currently registered.

Throughout the years, Troop 2 has served almost 3,000 boys and produced 65 Eagle Scouts while managing to remain an active part of the community. From helping distribute emergency water supplies in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake to participating in the annual 4th of July parade, Troop 2's volunteer efforts serve as a reminder of the dedication and commitment of the Boy Scouts of America.

On behalf of the citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley, I am honored today to help recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Troop 2.

THE UNDER 12 SYRACUSE BLITZ BOYS SOCCER TEAM WINS NATIONAL INDOOR SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the under 12 Syracuse Blitz Boys soccer team for winning the National Indoor Soccer Championship on March 17, 1997.

The North American Indoor Soccer Championship features qualifying regional tournaments at 20 sites around the country. The winning teams are then invited to participate in the grand finals. This dedicated group of athletes competed against 22 teams in their age bracket, including teams from Massachusetts, Maryland, Kansas, and Tennessee, as well as Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. It was Syracuse's second championship win in a row, as they won the indoor title last year.

Our central New York community is proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by the members of the 1997 Syracuse Blitz Boys soccer team.

Members of the 1997 Syracuse Blitz Boys under 12 National Indoor Champions are: Brian Knapp, Brian Perry, Mac Wilkie, Isaac Collings, Devin Dean, Josh Kristoff, Frank Monteleone, Patrick Ridall, Joey Spadaro, Alex Dowley, Brendan Quinlan, Joey Antonacci, Chris Paulus, Justin Crowley, and Matt Ponichtera. Coaches include Coach Bob Escobar, and assistant coaches Don Ridall and Craig Wilkie.

Congratulations to all the team members and coaches for their impressive achievements.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES EMERGENCY LEAVE TRANSFER ACT OF 1997

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 1995, in response to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the Office of Personnel Management [OPM] transmitted to Congress the Federal Employees Emergency Leave Transfer Act of 1995. With jury selection just begun in the Oklahoma City trial, it is time to pass this bill that would enhance the use of transfers of leave to assist Federal employees who are adversely affected by disasters or emergencies as declared by the President. I am reintroducing the bill today as we mark the anniversary month of the bombing in Oklahoma City. The bill was passed by the Senate and House last year and failed to go to conference because of opposition to an unrelated amendment attached in the House.

In 1988, Congress authorized a 5-year test of voluntary leave transfer and leave bank programs within Federal agencies. These programs were designed to help employees faced with a medical or family emergency who had already exhausted all available leave. In 1994, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee's Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits held a hearing on the programs, which documented their success. Legislation I authored making them permanent was subsequently enacted.

Current leave transfer law limits, in some situations, the transfer of donated leave from one agency to another. Current law also requires that donated leave be used only for personal or family medical emergencies, and that employees exhaust all personal leave balances before qualifying for leave donations.

In the wake of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April 1995, affected employees were excused from duty without being required to use their available leave. This was made possible by OPM's efforts to coordinate agencies' existing leave transfer programs. It became apparent from this experience that such situations would be better handled by establishing in law the necessary authority for special leave transfer programs to address needs created by Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies.

Senator TED STEVENS (R-AK), chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee first introduced OPM's proposal, S. 868, on June 21, 1995. The bill was approved by the committee, without amendment, on August 10, 1995. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on October 19, 1995. The Congressional Budget Office determined that S. 868 would not affect direct spending or receipts, and that any administrative costs resulting from its implementation would be minimal.

S. 868 was referred to the House Subcommittee on Civil Service which did not hold hearings on the measure, but referred the bill to the full House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. The full committee attached several other measures, including the Veterans Preference bill, to S. 868, and the House subsequently passed the bill as amended. The Senate, however, failed to con-

sider the bill as amended and it did not become law.

The bill I introduce today is identical to S. 868. It requires that in the event of a major disaster or emergency, the President would have the authority to direct OPM to create a special leave transfer program for affected Federal employees. Employees need not be facing a medical emergency to qualify, they would need the leave because of the adverse effects of the disaster or emergency. The bill would allow agency approved recipients to use donated leave without having to first exhaust their own accumulated leave. It would allow employees in any executive agency to donate leave for transfer to affected employees in the same agency or other agencies. It would also allow agency leave banks to donate leave to any emergency leave transfer program established under this act. OPM would be permitted to establish rules for the operation of this special program.

The Federal Employees Emergency Leave Transfer Act enjoys the support not only of OPM but of the Federal employee organizations, has no budgetary impact, and has not been controversial. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

IN HONOR OF THE PULASKI CADETS, INC., 164TH ANNIVERSARY MILITARY REVIEW AND BALL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pulaski Cadets, Inc., an organization which will be celebrating its 164th anniversary on April 19, 1997. This momentous occasion will recognize the contributions of Danuta Sieminska, operations manager of the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union and Thomas Wojlawowicz, president of the Pulaski Day Parade at the annual Military and Review Ball to be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the United Poles in America in Perth Amboy.

The Pulaski Cadets, Inc., have a long and distinguished history of service to their fellow Americans. This independent company, named after the famous Revolutionary War Gen. Kazimierz Pulaski, was incorporated in 1833. Its roots extend back to March 1778 when General Pulaski, commander of the American Cavalry, received permission from the Continental Congress to form an independent legion headquartered in Baltimore. During the War for Independence, the Pulaski Legion participated in a number of battles including Egg Harbor, Yorktown, and Savannah where General Pulaski was mortally wounded.

After the Revolutionary War, the Pulaski Legion was ordered to report to New York to defend that region of the new nation. In 1833, some descendants of the Pulaski Legion veterans decided to organize their own unit and named it the Pulaski Cadets. The official title of New York City Guard was bestowed upon the Pulaski Cadets in 1839. This elite military unit was attached as 1st Company to the 11th Regiment and later to Company G of the 55th Regiment, which caused an awkward situation since the 55th Regiment spoke mostly in French. They were subsequently granted a